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REMARKS

The Office Action of September 14, 2005, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, claims 1-3 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kohol et al. (EP Patent Application No. 1,025,866). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As amended above, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the impregnation consists of at most two hydrophilic organic solvent components and water. Independent claim 16 has been newly added to recite that the impregnation consists of at most two hydrophilic organic solvent components and an acid. Independent claim 19 has been newly added to recite that the impregnation comprises at most two hydrophilic organic solvent components and at least one of water and an acid, and that the impregnation is non-adhesive. In view of the above amendment, Applicants submit that the rejection under Section 112 has been obviated.

The primary reference upon which the Examiner relies, Kohol, is directed to absorbent articles in which the topsheet is covered with adhesive for attachment to the skin. Kohol emphasizes that that the adhesive may be readily removed from the skin of the wearer, from skin covered with body hair, and under wet conditions. Kohol does not disclose or suggest an absorbent article with a surface displaying an enhanced absorption rate to fluids. As set forth above, claims 1 and 16 utilize the term "consists of" because one aim of the present invention is to reduce the number

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of components which enables the top sheet to absorb fluids more readily. Hence, with only the recited components of claim 1 or claim 16, one skilled in the art would recognize that an adhesive surface such as produced in Kohol would not be attained. Moreover, Kohol does not disclose that its adhesive consists of only the claimed components. Rather, Kohol discloses an adhesive comprising a crosslinked polymer and a plasticizer, the plasticizer portion of which may be glycerol or water. Accordingly, Applicants contend that Kohol does not disclose or suggest an impregnation which "consists of" only the recited components of claim 1 and claim 16.

Independent claim 19 recites that the impregnation comprises at most two hydrophilic organic solvent components and at least one of water and an acid, and that the impregnation is non-adhesive. As the primary goal of Kohol is to provide an adhesive that may be attached to the skin and removed, Kohol clearly does not disclose or suggest a non-adhesive impregnation, as recited in claim 19.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

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Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicants regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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